



Hampden County

The most populous of the four western counties of Massachusetts, Hampden County borders the state of Connecticut on the south and is bisected by the Connecticut River.

The county enjoys a strong industrial and commercial employment base. Hampden County's largest city, Springfield, incorporated in 1636, is the third largest community in Massachusetts. It is also the core of the 4th largest metropolitan area in New England. In its early settlement much of the county was part of the "Springfield Plantation." By the late 19th Century, manufacturers of products such as side-arms and light artillery, bicycles and early automobiles, toys and games, cotton and wool textiles, and paper products rose to prominence.

Volleyball and basketball, both sports enjoyed around the world, were created in Hampden County. Today, the Volleyball Hall of Fame and the Basketball Hall of Fame are museums showcasing these sports and are frequented by visitors year round. The Eastern States Exposition, called "New England's Great State Fair" is held here annually, hosting participants and visitors from around the Northeast United States. Hampden County has two air fields to facilitate commercial and corporate air travel. Chicopee's Westover Air Reserve Base is home to the 439th Military Aircraft Wing of the Air Force Reserve, as well as a burgeoning Industrial Air Park. Westfield-Barnes Airport in Westfield hosts the 104th Tactical Fighting Unit of the Air National Guard. The region is also served by Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, CT, a 30 minute drive from Springfield.

The county called "The Crossroads of New England" also features rail service in all directions, as well as several exchanges on the Massachusetts Turnpike and Interstate 91. Notable cultural and recreation areas draw an ever increasing number of tourists to the region.

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Profiles covering all forty-three communities in the Pioneer Valley Region and a range of other topics are available. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Regional Information Center provides demographic, economic, and geographic data and services including mapping, research, and analysis to its constituent communities and to the public. Contact the Information Center for additional information.

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Type of government:
There are no county governments in Massachusetts.

Transit System:

Public Carrier Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

Private Carrier Bonanza Bus Lines, Greyhound, Peter Pan Bus Lines and Vermont Bus Lines

Para-Transit Carrier Community Council on Aging and Private Agencies, PVTA, Franklin Regional Transit Authority.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Not Applicable

LAND AREA and TAX BASE

Acres	406,366
Square Miles	634.9
Municipalities	23

POPULATION TRENDS

1970	459,050
2014	443,018
1990	456,310
2000	456,228
2010	463,490
2014	466,447

2014 Race and Latino Population	
White	78.2%
Black	8.7%
Asian	2.1%
Other	11.1%
Latino (of any race)	22.1%

Note: Race %s can be greater than 100% because of multiple race persons.

Percent of Population by Age

Age	1990	2000	2010
0 - 4	7.4	6.5	6.0
5 - 9	7.2	7.4	6.3
10 - 14	6.5	7.7	6.8
15 - 19	7.1	7.4	8.0
20 - 24	7.8	6.2	7.2
25 - 34	16.7	12.6	11.7
35 - 44	14.2	15.7	12.6
45 - 54	9.5	13.4	15.0
55 - 59	4.2	4.8	6.6
60 - 64	4.6	3.7	5.6
65 - 74	8.5	7.0	6.9
75 & over	6.3	7.5	7.3

LAND USE 2005

Total Square Miles		635
Total Road Miles	2009	2,773

Land Use	Acres
Residential	51,547
Commercial	5,148
Industrial	5,382
Urban Open/Public	6,453
Transportation	6,414
Outdoor Recreational	5,630
Agricultural Land	19,265
Undeveloped Land	265,690
Water	10,436

Transportation

AIRPORTS: Westfield-Barnes Airport; Palmer Airport; Westover Metropolitan and Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee

RAIL SERVICE: Amtrak Station: Springfield, Short Line Freight: Massachusetts Central Railroad Corp., Palmer; Pioneer, Valley Railroad, Westfield.

PRIMARY INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS: Massachusetts Turnpike / I-90 (east-west); and Interstate 91 (north-south)

Data Sources: Massachusetts Department of Revenue; Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development; Massachusetts Department of Education; United States Census Bureau; The Warren Group; Resource Mapping; University of Massachusetts; Applied Geographic Solutions; Local Municipal Offices

EMPLOYERS and EMPLOYMENT

2014

Industry	Number	Percent of Community Total
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	236	0.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	18,718	9.3%
Construction	7,557	3.8%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	10,624	5.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	49,178	24.5%
Information	2,877	1.4%
Manufacturing	19,097	9.5%
Services	53,676	26.8%
Transportation, Comm. & Utilities	9,995	5.0%
Wholesale and Retail Trade	28,507	14.2%

Note: Above does not include self-employed, where many work in the agriculture, construction and service industries.

Average Weekly Wage	\$896
Self-employed (includes all business types)	15242

WHERE RESIDENTS WORK 2014

79.0%	work in county
21.0%	work out of county

HOUSING PRICES

Year	Number of Sales	Median Sales Price
2010	3,035	\$152,000
2011	4,326	\$146,600
2012	4,719	\$148,475
2013	4,464	\$162,000
2014	4,581	\$165,000

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of Persons 25 Years and Older * 2013

Less than 12 years	16.3%
4 years High School	31.3%
Less than 4 years College	27.9%
4 or more years College	24.6%

*Expressed as the highest level attained.

Colleges: American International College, Bay Path College, Elms College, Holyoke Community College, Springfield College, Springfield Technical Community College, Western New England College, Westfield State College

RESIDENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE

Year	Labor Force	Percent Unemployed
2004	224,231	6.2%
2005	224,100	5.8%
2006	225,267	5.9%
2007	224,155	5.5%
2008	225,694	6.4%
2009	227,355	9.5%
2010	228,320	10.2%
2011	219,187	9.5%
2012	219,302	8.8%
2013	220,410	9.1%
2014	222,549	7.8%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2010-2014

\$0 - \$9,999	8.4%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	7.5%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	11.9%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	9.9%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	12.2%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	16.5%
\$75,000 & over	33.6%

Median Household Income: 2010-14 \$50,036

Persons Below Poverty Level: 2010-2014 17.7%